[*English*]

Quarters for Staff of ESI Corporation

3388. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether staff quarters have been constructed at Employees State Insurance Corporation colony, Ahmedabad ;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot the same quarters to ESIC employees against House Building Advances ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Staff quarters have been constructed mainly in three ESI Colonies in Ahmedabad.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1.88 crore has been spent.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Steps to check deforestation in States

3389. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL :

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether deforestation on a very large scale has taken place in various States of the country ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to check felling of trees ;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out a Forest Development Scheme to check deforestation and if so, the details of the total amount provided by the Government for the development of forests State-wise ;

(d) whether the trees planted by forest department are maintained for five years only ; and

(e) if so, whether the trees planted remain safe and if not, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the planted trees as well as environment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No report of large scale deforestation has been received from the States recently. However, the Central Government have taken the following steps to check the illegal felling of trees :

(i) guidelines have been issued to State Governments/UTs. to consider banning green felling on mountains/hills above 1000 metres ;

(ii) forest protection measures are being intensified including strengthening of infrastructure facilities to curb biotic interference in the forest ;

(iii) enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.